

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 507, February 15, 2006]

**EXTENDING THE COORDINATIVE ROLE AND PROJECT
MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS OF THE SOUTH
COTABATO/COTABATO/SULTAN
KUDARAT/SARANGANI/GENERAL SANTOS CITY
(SOCSKSARGEN) AREA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICE UNDER
THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

WHEREAS, the SOCSKSARGEN Area Development Project (ADP) Office, since its inception in August 1991, achieved significant strides in integrating and accelerating the implementation of critical development initiatives of its component local government units;

WHEREAS, the integrated area development approach, with the support of the national government and active participation of the local government units and the private sector, has proven to be an effective mechanism in coordinating and implementing programs and projects aligned with the agri-industrial development goals of Southern Mindanao;

WHEREAS, under Executive Order (EO) No. 140, series of 2002, the SOCSKSARGEN Area Development Project Office was extended and placed it under the Department of Agriculture with its term until 31 December 2004;

WHEREAS, E.O. No. 223, series of 2003, reconstituted the members of the SOCSKSARGEN Area Development Project Board with the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture as Chairman;

WHEREAS, E.O. No. 36, series of 2001, that reconfigured Region 12, formally adopted its Medium Term Regional Development Plan through the Regional Development Council (RDC) recognizing SOCSKSARGEN as a major economic growth cluster;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO , President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the power vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The provision on the term of the ADP Office in Section 1 of EO 140, series of 2002, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“ SOCSKSARGEN ADP Office Term. the term of SOCSKSARGEN ADP Office is hereby extended to December 31, 2010.”

SEC. 2. The provision on the establishment of the South Cotabato/Sarangani/General Santos City Area Development project in Section 1 of E.O. No. 474, series of 1991, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“ SOCSKSARGEN Area Development Project Office. There is hereby established the South Cotabato/Cotabato/Sultan Kudarat/Sarangani/General Santos City-Area

Development Project Office, hereinafter referred to as the SOCSKSARGEN ADP Office, as a Special Project under the Department of Agriculture for integrating, coordinating, supervising, directing, and formulating policies and guidelines for the implementation of major development initiatives in the SOCSKSARGEN area. The SOCSKSARGEN ADP Office shall be composed of a Project Board and a Project Management Unit (PMU) which shall hold office in General Santos City.”

SEC. 3. Project Board . – The SOCSKSARGEN ADP Office composed of the Project Board and The Project Management Unit (PMU) shall function under the Secretary of Agriculture (DA).

SEC. 4. Members of the Project Board . – The composition of the project Board under Section 2 of EO 223, series of 2003, shall be composed of the following:

- a. The Secretary of Agriculture as Chairman;
- b. The Mayor of General Santos City;
- c. The Governors of the Provinces of South Cotabato, North Cotabato, Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat;
- d. The Region 12 Directors of the following departments and agencies; National Economic and Development Authority, Agriculture, Public Works and Highways, Air Transportation Office, Philippine Ports Authority, Trade and Industry, Environment and Natural Resources, Interior and Local Government, and Agrarian Reform;
- e. The Commanding General of the 6th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army;
- f. One (1) representative of the Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) nominated by the various NGOs accredited by the Regional Development Council of Region 12;
- g. One (1) representative of the business sector nominated by the Chambers of Commerce in the project area.

SEC. 5. Vice Chair of the Project Board. – The Vice Chair of the Board shall be elected by the member of the Local Government Executives from among themselves.

SEC. 6. Powers of the DA. – The powers and function of the DA regarding SOCSKSARGEN shall be as follows:

- a. Formulate policies and guidelines and establish sustainable development goals within the context of the Regional Development Plan and the role of SOCSKSARGEN in the Mindanao Development Framework;
- b. Provide general direction and formulate appropriate policies in the development of SOCSKSARGEN’s agricultural and agro-industrial potentials in support to the national goal of promoting agribusiness development and in increasing productivity and production efficiency;
- c. Require the concerned government agencies, non-government organizations and private sector groups to coordinate and submit their respective area-specific plans and programs to the Project Board through its secretariat, the Project Management Unit, to ensure complementation of various development initiatives in the area;
- d. Advocate, supervise, facilitate and provide overall direction in the planning and implementation of SOCSKSARGEN Food Security Program, activities and major infrastructure projects that will have critical impact to the agro-industrial development of the area like the proposed construction of the Awang-Upi-Lebak-Kalamansig-Palimbang Road, expansion of General Santos Fish Port, development of